

Clean School Bus USA



EPA's Initiative to Reduce Pollution from School Buses

10th National Clean Cities Conference
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida - May 4, 2004



Why School Buses?



- 24 million children ride school buses
- Almost 400,000 diesel school buses in U.S.
 - many are very old with rudimentary or no emission controls
- PM concentrations are higher on the bus than outside
- 2004 & 2007 HD standards only apply to new engines
- Today's kindergartners will be in college before school bus fleet turns over.

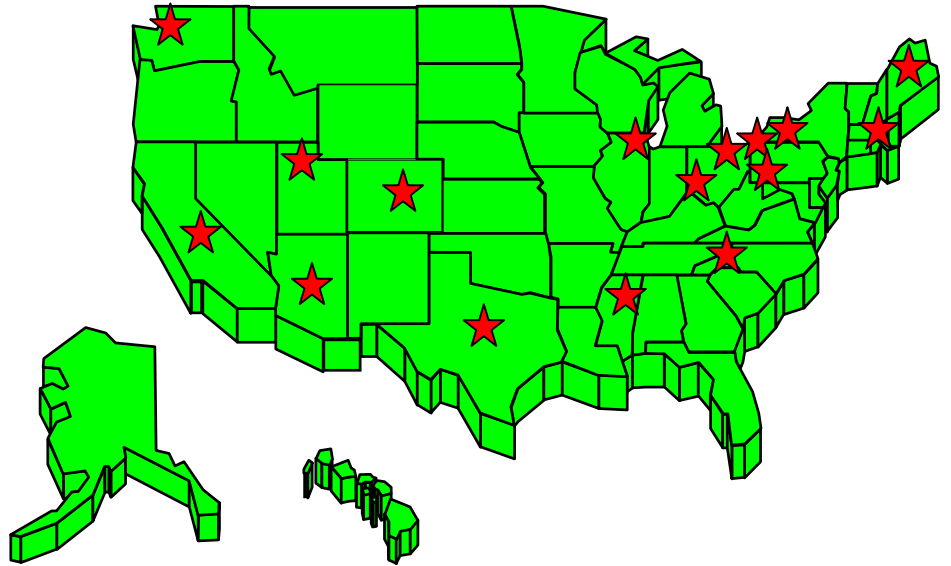
What is Clean School Bus USA?

- **EPA launched initiative in April 2003**
- **Partnership of public and private sector leaders**
- **The charge: provide cleanest possible transportation for this generation of school children by:**
 - Reducing school bus idling & adopting smart operating practices
 - Retrofitting buses with modern pollution control technology
 - Replacing the oldest buses with new, cleaner buses
- **The goal: modernize 100% of the fleet by 2010**
- **The benefits: healthier kids and communities**
 - 1000's of fewer cases of respiratory symptoms
 - Less asthma symptoms, medication, and missed school

2003 Clean School Bus Demonstration Grants

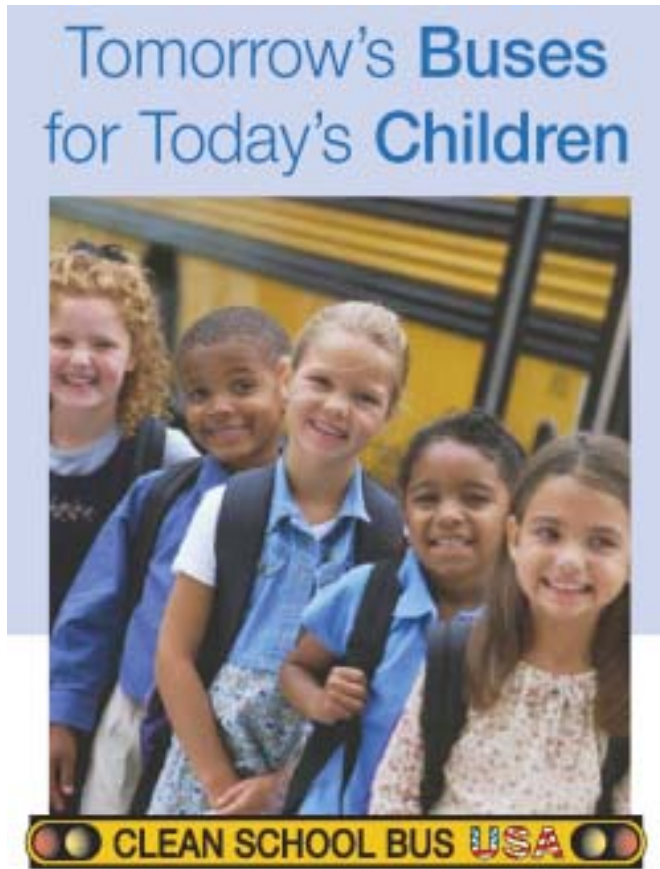
- **Congress allocated \$5 million for school bus grants for FY03**
- **EPA received overwhelming response to competition over summer**
 - 120 applications, almost \$60 million in requests
 - Applications from 36 states + Puerto Rico
 - Applicants included school districts, state/local agencies, nonprofits, and national organizations

- 17 projects in 14 states



*** Does not include National School Transportation Project**

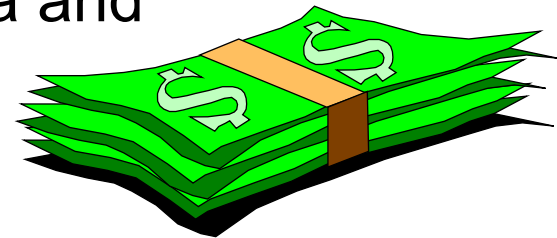
2004 Clean School Bus Demonstration Grants



- **Congress provided another \$5 million for 2004**
 - Will fund additional programs from 2003 application pool
 - Several CNG and biodiesel proposals among the eligible applications
 - Award announcement early summer 2004

2005 Clean School Bus USA Budget Proposal

- **The President's 2005 budget proposal requests \$65 million for school bus retrofit and replacement**
 - The FY2005 budget is not finalized until it is passed by Congress and approved by the President
- **Calls for a competitive process**
- **EPA is developing program design**
 - Will seek stakeholder input on criteria and guidance



Clean School Bus USA Focus



- Primary focus: upgrade school bus fleet with clean technology
 - Not an alternative fuels advocacy program - the program is not designed to specifically promote alternative fuel technology.
 - However. . . the program does support communities that choose CNG and biodiesel

Challenges?



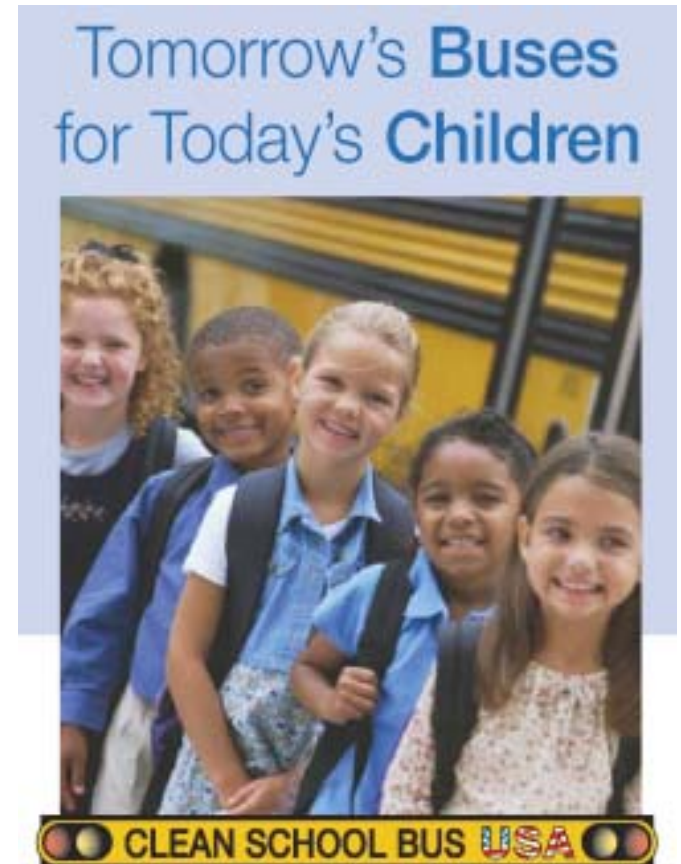
- Challenges do exist for schools considering CNG
 - **Cost**
 - Biggest barrier to CNG competing in school bus market
 - Initial investment required for fueling infrastructure where it doesn't already exist.
 - **Availability**
 - CNG engines only available for largest buses - Type D
 - Many districts don't want or need that type
 - **Information**
 - School districts lack up-to-date success stories
 - Fleet managers are still cautious from previous experiences with older technology
- Incremental cost difference between biodiesel and standard diesel is a consideration

Opportunities!

- **Help establish fueling infrastructure**
 - Foster local partnerships
 - Secure outside/local funding to supplement federal grants
 - Advertise biodiesel supply availability
- **Expand technology choices**
 - Offer smaller and/or other style buses
 - Develop inexpensive/convenient refueling options
- **Provide technical and financial support**
 - “Customer service” essential to increase comfort level with new technology
 - High bus cost may be prohibitive for cash-strapped school districts
- **Share new information and success stories**
 - Educate fleet managers and decision makers about CNG and biodiesel advantages
 - Help school districts develop and propose sustainable alternative fuel projects

Become a Clean School Bus USA Partner

- **Alternative fuels and clean diesel technology each play an important role.**
- **Share new information and success stories.**
- **Explore opportunities to work together to address fleets already on the road.**
- **Idle Reduction Programs are low cost and effective.**



**The benefit: healthier kids
and communities**



For More Information:

www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus

www.epa.gov/otaq/retrofit

